CRUELTIES

CALLED

QUAKERS

London, Printed for Benjamin Clark, in George-Yard in Lombard-street, 1682.

BARBAROUS

CRUELTIES

OU AKERS

A short Account of some of the Violent and Inhumane Cruelties Acted upon the Peaceable People of God called Quakers at Broughton Meeting in Leicestershire: From 27. 9 Month to the 30 of the 11 Month, 1681.

FRIENDS, being met together in the Name and fear of the Lord, to wait upon him, there came in four Rude Youths, viz. *Thomas Towers*, *William Towers*, *John Groom*, and *John Copon*, who did much Abuse Friends, and the Constable coming in and taking a view of our Meeting, after a little stay, went forth to an House near the Meeting: Then the Rude Youths said we will go to the Officers, and if they will Disturb us, we will not have them, for they have no more to do here than they. *Richard Moore*, the Constable, *Robert Moore* [illegible] little time returned to our Meeting, and beginning to execute their Warrant, and they and [illegible] So in the Execution of their Office [illegible] Tops, Pinching us with [illegible] Pieces of Broken Pipes, Pulling out Hooks from our Heads, and then laid Violent Hands upon us, and pluck'd us

out of the Meeting; and [illegible] Friends to send for in the [illegible] and our Brethren from [illegible] of our Lives, [illegible] would profess to the Truths, [illegible] had been [illegible] William Rand [illegible] Warrant to search the [illegible] they [illegible] great [illegible] Man [illegible] was [illegible] an [illegible] word [illegible] us Alive, [illegible] Testified by many [illegible] give this under our Hands.

[illegible]

A [illegible]

[illegible] A.

[redacted]

her in at the Meeting-House Gate; [redacted] just ce
when we came to [redacted] Meeting, [redacted] any
[redacted] Elizabeth Hill, whom she had so much [redacted] Authority, or
[redacted] Abuse, and encouragement of Friends, [redacted] ed
began to sing Dirt, as if it were a Violent man [redacted] to
her, and Tore out Clothes; and through the [redacted] Pit-
[redacted] ing place. The Constable [redacted] Friends
[redacted] and they having Violent Hands
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

John Brooks, and drew him backwards over a high Desk

Jonathan Phillips.

The

the Head and heels, and went and fetch'd dirt and Rubbed on our faces. [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[

TO this preceding Meeting, there follow'd the Testimony of *Thomas Stretton*, one of the Priests Hearers; I saw *Elizabeth Hilton* going towards *Richard Bayliffes*. And as she went up the Steps to his Door, *Thomas Towers* caught her by the Hood; and I saw him throw her over the Threshold. Then the Rude Youths came into my House, and Cracked how one held her, and the other Cram'd Dirt in her Mouth, at *William Harman's* Gate.

THe Testimony of *Elizabeth Stretton*, another of the Priests Hearers: I saw *Elizabeth Hilton* her Mouth Daubed with Dirt; and so Abused she had been, that I thought she would have Died forthwith: And I saw the Youth Lugg her about, and throw her down in the Street.

Elizabeth Stretton.

THe Testimony of *Jane Miller*: I being going to Church, was called into *Richard Bayliffes* House, where I saw *Elizabeth Hilton*, had been much Abused, her Mouth being all Dirty: And though I did not see when she was so wrong'd, yet I heard *Thomas Towers* say twice, *I or We, have Killed their Preacher*, and she was very weakly.

Jane Miller.

THere was but one Young Man a Friend, at this last Meeting, they having (before these Cruelties were [illegible] by a wicked Informer, *John Smith*, very much Enraged by feeling to their Goods; and since (by the Instigation of this Vile and wicked Person *Cutler*) sent most of our Men Friends to Prison, and have now struck at the Lives of those that are left, by his wicked Agents.

Before these Transactions were thus Acted, *Thomas Andrews* this Priests Man said, *That nothing would drive them away, but either Fire or Water, and if the House was his, he would burn it on their Heads.* And said to the Officers, *That* Elizabeth Hilton *would be put into the Well:* And they asked him, who should do it, and he said, *He would*, Witness

The four Youths mentioned herein; one of them was about 17, or 18 years of Age, and another about 15 or 16. And the other two about fourteen.

THe Testimony of [illegible] being going to [illegible]

Here

Here followeth some Account of the wicked and Illegal Proceedings of John Smith *an Old Informer, and* William Cole *a Justice (so called) an Old Assistant of his.*

THe 15*th* day of the 3*d.* Month 1681. this Informer *John Smith* and his Man came to *Thorp* in *Broughton* Parish, where Friends Meetings used to be: The Meeting being ended a little before he came, and Friends being on their way homewards: This Informer met with *William Brooks* in his way homewards, and did much abuse him, and then left him, and came Riding after some other Friends, viz. *Thomas Followayes* and three Women Friends, and did much abuse them also; Offering to Ride over them with his Horse, and [illegible] one Friends Clothes, and forced them back again, pretending to have them before a Justice; and had them back to the Town of Broughton, and there got their Names, and let them go again: And then [illegible] got them Fined; and presently brought Warrants of Distress, and Distrained for the Fines. *Thomas Followayes*, Fined 10*l.* 5*s.* *William Brooks* 6*l.* 10*s.* *Edward Earby* 3*l.* *Elizabeth Norman* 10*s.* And her Husband being not a Friend payed the Money; *Thomas Followayes* Fine was part of it payed by a Relation of his contrary to his Mind. And the Constable of *Whetston*, with other Officers of the Town, strained for the rest, and took to the value of 12*l.* and upwards in the whole. And of *William Brooks* for 6 or 7*l.* they took to the value of 15*l.* and upwards. And *Edward Earby*, they having before taken all he had, and he having got or bought some necessary Goods again; them they also took away again, to the value of 3*l.* 10*s.* all that he had which was worth carrying away.

From Leicester *County-Goal the* 30th. *of the* 11th. *Month* 1681.

THE END.

MEMORANDUM.

That these preceding Sufferings of the County of Leicester, are not Divulged up Print, by the Sufferers themselves, but by other Contemporary their Chief.

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